



Minutes City Council Issue Review Session August 16, 2007

Minutes of the Tempe City Council Issue Review Session held on Thursday, August 16, 2007, 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Hugh Hallman

Vice Mayor Hut Hutson

Councilmember P. Ben Arredondo

Councilmember Barbara J. Carter

Councilmember Shana Ellis

Councilmember Mark W. Mitchell

Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian

Mayor Hallman called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Call to the Audience

Bill Butler, Tempe, re: Item #2, suggested that the City buy and staff emergency vehicles. The City already has qualified staff and the buildings so start-up costs would be minimized. He urged Council to study the idea of a municipal ambulance service prior to any lucrative contracts being signed.

Jason Paine, Phoenix, representing Local 160 which represents Southwest Ambulance. Southwest Ambulance is the only private ambulance company in the country to offer a 20-year defined benefit pension plan. The members have stated that they do not want to work for another company that cannot provide the same plan. This is not only about the citizens of Tempe, but also about the future of the members of Local 160. The current provider has provided great service for the past twenty years.

Roy Ryals, Chandler, Senior Vice President and Director of Southwest Ambulance, re: Item #2. Southwest Ambulance is proud to have been the ambulance service provider for Tempe for over twenty years. As a result of another provider's desire to re-enter the EMS market in Tempe, the City is now exploring its options for ambulance service delivery and how those services will be provided. This decision is not one of an operational necessity or public safety. Southwest Ambulance has met or achieved every contractual commitment with the City over the last twenty years without exception. Southwest Ambulance respects the City's right to explore various options, but feels the safest way to accomplish this exploration is through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process which allows for the full examination of the services

available. He urged the City to issue an RFP for these services and through that process retain flexibility to award the contract to a single provider, if that proves to be in the best interest of the citizens of Tempe. It is Southwest's belief that the City is best served by a single provider in order to assure the highest level of response time and operational interface; an integrated command structure with the City Fire Department is in place. Concerning homeland security, these issues are crucial to the safety of our citizens.

Ambulance Services RFP Update

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenter: Fire Chief Cliff Jones

Councilmember Mitchell declared a conflict and left the table.

Fire Chief Cliff Jones provided an update on the ambulance services Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The Fire Department is currently working on an analysis of what would be required for the Fire Department to become the ambulance service provider and anticipates presenting a report at the September 11th Council Neighborhood Quality of Life, Public Safety and Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

Chief Jones further responded to an earlier request for information on the Certificate of Necessity (CON) process in Arizona. To operate a ground ambulance service in Arizona, an application must be filed with the Department of Health Services Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. This certificate describes the service area, the level and type of service, hours of operation, response times, and any limiting or special provisions the director of the bureau prescribes. This is an arduous process requiring additional research and staff will return to Council.

Chief Jones added that at this time, staff is prepared to initiate design of an RFP and through its preparation would allow the inclusion of the requested "apples-to-apples" comparison and the cost/benefit analysis. Staff has assembled a design team, including the following:

Battalion Chief John Barton, Medical Services Chief
John Valenzuela, Medical Transportation Contract Coordinator
Fire Captain Don Jongewaard
Mary Wade, Assistant City Attorney
Lisa Goodman, Procurement Officer

A timeline has been developed, subject to outside influence for development and processing of an ambulance request for proposal as follows:

Proposal development completed	Mid-October, 2007
Courtesy review by Department of Health Services completed	November 9, 2007
Proposals due back to the City	December 7, 2007
Evaluation of proposals completed	December 21, 2007
Recommendations to City Council	January 10, 2008

Chief Jones added that he had previously stated that staff had explored a potential direct contract without an RFP, but that appears to be a doubtful prospect at this point.

CONSENSUS

Acceptable as presented, proceed with process.

Follow-up Responsibility: Cliff Jones

Golf Fund Performance and Fees

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenters: Parks and Recreation Manager Mark Richwine; Deputy Financial Services Manager Tom Duensing

Mark Richwine summarized that Council had directed staff to bring back information regarding the financial performance of the golf enterprise. Staff has presented this information both to the Council's Finance, Economy and Veterans Affairs (FEVA) Committee and the Council's Arts and Community Services Committee, as well as recommendations from the Golf Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Carter suggested that the future of Rolling Hills Golf Course be discussed at the Council Summit.

Mayor Hallman summarized that the Ken McDonald Golf Course continues to perform admirably and is able to carry its own weight and more. The Rolling Hills Golf Course is under-performing severely and is a serious cash flow drain on the enterprise fund. The golf operations must pay for themselves so that taxpayers aren't subsidizing rounds of golf. The style of the Rolling Hills course is attracting a more limited number of players and fewer and fewer Tempe residents are playing that course. He agreed that this should be added to the Summit agenda, not so much to solve the problem, but to figure out how to begin to address it.

Mayor Hallman further summarized that the Golf Committee and the FEVA Committee are recommending an increase of the rate on 18 holes from \$28 to \$30 (\$32 for the weekends). Resident rates would increase from \$25 to \$27 (\$29 on the weekends). There are some other adjustments for senior and junior rates. He was puzzled about the desire to rehabilitate the clubhouse and given the golf course has to carry its own weight, how can resources be generated to provide possible capital changes? It appears we are going to potentially change how successful Ken McDonald is in order to deal with Rolling Hills. He is willing to go forward, but he would like to see the data on the mix of play at Ken McDonald and monitor how the rate of play is affected by this. In the past, rates had been adjusted upward not only to increase revenues, but also to reduce play because the courses were being overplayed and were in bad shape as a result. As the price of play on this course is increased, it is possible that the number of players will be reduced and instead of increasing the revenue, we may actually lose total revenue. He would like a baseline of where we are today and monitor it very closely. If the goal is to increase the rates to generate additional revenue, we may actually achieve just the opposite.

Councilmember Arredondo agreed to discuss Rolling Hills Golf Course at the Council Summit, but he asked for clarification that there still is revenue in the enterprise fund.

Mr. Richwine responded that during peak times of play in the late 1990's, there was a substantial cash balance in the golf enterprise fund. That balance has been decreasing during the years due to the decline in play. There is still a cash reserve of approximately \$380K starting this fiscal year, but it is spending down at about \$70K to \$100K per year.

Mayor Hallman added that over the last two years, it has been spent faster than that. There is still cash left in the bank from the reserves that were built up.

Councilmember Arredondo clarified that there is still money in the bank, and taxpayers' money is not being spent to support the golf courses.

CONSENSUS

1. **Approved staff recommendation for implementation of fee increases for Ken McDonald Golf Course effective November 1, 2007.**
2. **Place an item on the Council Summit agenda to craft an approach for addressing issues at Rolling Hills Golf Course.**
3. **At a future IRS, staff is to provide data on the play over the last several years from both Ken McDonald and Rolling Hills, as well as data from Ken McDonald after the fee increases have been implemented.**

Follow-up Responsibility: Mark Richwine, Tom Duensing

“Tempe Involving the Public” Manual

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenter: Neighborhood Program Director Shauna Warner

Shauna Warner acknowledged the significant contribution of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) to this manual. She introduced Marcie Greenberg, Chair of the NAC. Ms. Warner summarized that the “Tempe Involving the Public” (TIP) Manual originated from the adopted General Plan 2030. It identifies the different types of planning used by the City and identifies the public information and public engagement process for those types of planning. All departments have reviewed the manual, as well as the Council's Finance, Economy and Veterans Affairs Committee. The formal resolution to adopt the manual is on the Formal Council agenda tonight.

Councilmember Shekerjian commended those who invested all the hard work. She especially appreciated the templates. She asked how this differs from the current processes in terms of citizen involvement in development.

Ms. Warner responded that it doesn't necessarily differentiate from what is currently done, but

documentation of those processes did not previously exist. Developers must hold neighborhood meetings and they have asked for tips on meeting with the neighbors. This manual provides guidelines and templates and provides standard expectations of how to involve citizens. Specific training will be done through the Tempe Learning Center so that anyone who will be involving residents will have an expectation of what to do.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked if there is a future evaluation process.

Ms. Warner responded that the NAC has been very involved and one of their ongoing goals is to evaluate how the manual is doing by revisiting it to make sure it is working, and evaluating the templates. We would like to have a few test cases done before it is evaluated and hopefully within the next 12 months, that can be done.

Councilmember Shekerjian suggested returning to Council with an update.

Mayor Hallman suggested that a report be prepared by early next summer to the Council's Neighborhood Quality of Life, Public Safety and Parks & Recreation Committee, and then report to Council.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked that when a department actually uses these standards and templates, is there some opportunity for those who are involved in the process to say whether it worked for them.

Ms. Warner responded that one of the templates is actually an evaluation. There is both an internal evaluation and an external evaluation.

Councilmember Shekerjian stated that it was important that staff has feedback and data for their annual evaluation of how the manual is working.

Mayor Hallman asked if it was staff's intention to get this out to the neighborhood associations for their meetings.

Ms. Warner responded that the neighborhood associations were involved in the process with a survey to ask how they would like to be involved, so they will get the final product.

CONSENSUS

By next summer, staff was directed to follow up with an evaluation report to the Neighborhood Advisory Commission, followed by a report to the Council's Neighborhood Quality of Life, Public Safety, and Parks & Recreation Committee analyzing the results of the manual, and then return to IRS with an update.

Follow-up Responsibility: Shauna Warner

Tempe Center for the Arts Grand Opening Weekend Update

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenter: Community Services Manager Tom Canasi; Deputy Public Works Manager Carlos de Leon

Tom Canasi invited the public to attend the grand opening celebration from noon until 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 9th. There will be free food and entertainment, and all the partner arts organizations will perform. In addition, parking and transportation will make it easily accessible for everyone.

Carlos de Leon summarized that there will be onsite parking for the public grand opening on Sunday, September 9th at the Tempe Center for the Arts, and also west of the Center for the Arts. Off-site parking will be available at ASU Lot 59, west of Rural Road along Rio Salado Parkway, as well as free parking at the U S Airways garage and surface parking lot at Ash and 3rd Street. The shuttle will be operating from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., every 5 minutes. There will be a number of stops, including Parkard Drive, Tempe Beach Park at Mill and Rio Salado, one in the downtown area at Mill and 5th Street, and the U S Airways garage at Ash and 3rd Street. Community Relations will assist in providing this information to the public.

Ms. Canasi added that the official dedication will be held at 12:15 p.m. He urged everyone to sign the guest books which will be archived at the Tempe Historical Museum.

****NO CONSENSUS – INFORMATION ONLY**

Parent Unification Committee Report Update

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenters: Dick Foreman, Chair of the Unification Committee.

Mayor Hallman stated that Council had previously directed that a letter be sent to the School District Redistricting Commission relating Council's view on how the redistricting issue for the schools within Tempe should be handled.

Dick Foreman, Chair of the Unification Committee, summarized that in May a dialog was held with the public to discuss the issue of unification through several community newspaper columns. This Council had already expressed itself to the School District Redistricting Commission in January. His concern was that enough opportunity had been provided for parents and community leaders to weigh in on the argument to be sure that the Redistricting Commission's recommendations resonate with those citizens served by the three school districts serving Tempe. He presented the final Unification Committee Report and commended every member of the committee, as well as Councilmembers Carter and Shekerjian, for their interest and hard work. Community participation was outstanding. On average, for four consecutive Tuesday nights in June, the Tempe Police South Substation was filled to overflowing. In addition to those 200 to 250 participants, over 100 people participated by email. There were some from other states who sent cell phones into the room to listen. There were very different views among the participants, but a strong majority favored the same model urged by this Council. The core principles that the parents identified over a four-week period came through to the end as a unanimous adoption by the entire group. This report has been sent to the School District Redistricting

Commission. He would ask Council to endorse the core principles so the commission will know that the leadership also supports these principles. He outlined the core principles:

1. Continuity and alignment
2. Improve current choices
3. Determine and pay for unification costs
4. Maintain current desired programs
5. Teacher/Staff pay rise to the highest level
6. Class size remains stable
7. Consider civil rights/demographic impacts
8. Parents affected by boundary changes must have choice of districts
9. Maximize current facilities
10. Any unification plan must be realistic for adoption by voters
11. Provide adequate transition time for any newly approved plan.
12. Have recommendation for unorganized territory
13. Maintain overrides with current authorizations
14. Clarify desegregation authorities/expenditures
15. Public input for transition

He highlighted several items of special importance:

- *Item #3 – Determine and pay for unification costs.* It would be grossly unfair to the school districts, students and parents if the actual cost of unification were not determined and paid for in advance of asking voters to vote for unification. The legislature needs to appropriate that cost.
- *Item #5 - Teacher and staff pay.* In the old unification statutes, there was a 10 percent bonus as a reward to the districts to support unification. This was almost entirely dedicated to ensuring that no one would take a pay cut. When three districts are combined, it would be unfair to have a unified district, but two teachers performing the same work not paid the same wage. This core principle would require that those pay schedules be brought to the highest level.
- *Item #7 – Civil rights and demographic issues.* This is a big concern. This core principle states that we are not going to do anything that upsets the diversity, but only accentuates it and takes advantage of it. These are positives and bring families together.
- *Item #15 – Continue the public input.* The parents in Tempe's three school districts want to be involved with education. Under the current statute, they don't have an opportunity to provide further input beyond the point the Commission makes its recommendation for the ballot. That should be extended through the election, after transition, assuming unification is passed, and that input should continue.

Councilmember Carter asked about the three school districts' support for the 3-to-1 recommendation.

Mr. Foreman responded that the boards had significant participation, but he couldn't expect them to go outside their fiduciary responsibility. They will have to make decisions based strictly on their boundaries and their charges and this goes beyond their ability. He didn't ask them to respond to the report. They have their own mechanism to take input. This was designed to be a parents-only and community-members mechanism.

Mayor Hallman clarified that he wasn't asking for an endorsement, but a support of the core principles that any unification program should adopt.

Mr. Foreman agreed. Council has already spoken to their views on unification. At this point, if the core principles resonate with Council, it would be great to have Council's acknowledgement.

Mayor Hallman clarified that it was a unanimous decision that the core principles should be applied regardless of which model. He asked for explanation of Item #12.

Mr. Foreman responded that there is some land in the west foothills area (Phoenix) that is still unorganized, but there is a process for dealing with those students and they are not recommending any change to that process.

Councilmember Shekerjian added that it was remarkable how parents and community members worked together. The premise was that something will go on the ballot, and these core principles are part of whatever goes on the ballot so that no one is harmed and Mr. Foreman did an excellent job in helping everyone understand that. As voters, we finally have the opportunity to have a say in what we would like to see happen. These core principles are essential to be successful.

Councilmember Mitchell also thanked Mr. Foreman for his hard work in bringing the community together to provide input. Concerning Item #3, he asked for clarification that before anything is put on the ballot, this issue will be addressed.

Mr. Foreman responded that was correct. He talked with Representative Shapiro who has already opened a bill holder to carry all of these changes. He has started this very critical process. We need to make sure that we identify those costs.

Councilmember Mitchell asked about the school districts' stand. They are an elected body and their responsibility is to the schools. Council's responsibility is more to the broad community.

Mr. Foreman responded that he would guess the school districts would be very much in favor of the principles, but they have not taken a position. Their approach has been tri-district governing board meetings to focus on the issue of unification, but not on the ballot question. His approach was to focus on the ballot question.

Councilmember Ellis stated that last time when this came to Council, the talk was to divide the district further, either down US 60, or down Guadalupe, and that the commission wasn't listening to Council saying that wasn't a good idea. The letter Council sent represented how we were looking at in Tempe. This report talks about the entire district. She would prefer that Council focus on Tempe and not endorse a recommendation for an entire district.

Mr. Foreman responded that he wasn't asking for any additional comments or reviews on the unification issue from Council, but he would look for support on the core principles.

Councilmember Arredondo added that people have said overwhelmingly that they want to vote on it. Mr.

Foreman has done a good job. The core principles are obvious and all we are saying as a City is that we stand behind these core principles.

Mayor Hallman summarized that Council's main focus is the City of Tempe. He didn't see anything that has been presented that is inconsistent with what Council has previously said and, in fact, it supports it. In looking at the second letter Council asked him to send, it includes references to the kinds of principles that have now been determined. They include concepts of unifying, not further dividing, resources that would provide equal opportunities to education and success while achieving full articulation of our elementary, middle and high school curriculums. We have already articulated the principles that the parents have pulled together and he thinks it would be appropriate to support the principles, because he still finds it amazing still that the legislature pushed forward on this process without funding it. There are going to be expenses incurred to unify, whatever the model. That has gone unfunded and it was expected to be funded out of children's educations and that's not fair.

Vice Mayor Hutson commended the great job done by Mr. Foreman.

Councilmember Mitchell clarified that just because Council recommends the principles doesn't mean the commission will accept them.

Mr. Foreman expressed great hope that they will accept them. They will hear from many individuals and groups.

Councilmember Carter added her thanks for his expertise.

CONSENSUS

Support of core unification principles as presented. Staff was directed to prepare a letter to be signed by Mayor and Council.

Follow-up Responsibility: Will Manley

Formal Council Agenda Items

No agenda items were discussed.

Future Agenda Items

Mayor Hallman stated that Councilmember Shekerjian had been contacted by a resident regarding a battery recycling program and he suggested a future agenda item concerning a recycling program in conjunction with the schools for referral to Council's Education and Technology Advancement Committee. Councilmember Shekerjian further suggested that it would also be directed to the Neighborhood Quality of Life, Public Safety and Parks and Recreation Committee. Councilmember Arredondo suggested that a discussion be held at the Council Summit in coordination with the scopes of the committees.

Mayor's Announcements/Manager's Announcements

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Jan Hort
City Clerk